



# Stavig House

112 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue W.  
Sisseton, SD  
Roberts County

If you want an authentic look at the American immigrant experience, the Stavig House is a must-see. The builder of the house, Andrew Stavig, emigrated from Norway to what would become northeastern South Dakota with his parents, Lars and Maren Stavig, in 1876. Lars continuously corresponded with his brother, Knut, who remained in Norway. Their collection of letters, numbering in the hundreds and spanning over five decades, tells the universal story of a typical immigrant family coming to America for a better life. Andrew Stavig and his brothers started a successful mercantile business on Sisseton's main street in 1898. This success enabled Andrew to build the Stavig House in 1916. Andrew and his family opened their home to other immigrants who worked at the Stavig Brothers Store until they could find and afford accommodations of their own. The house remained in the Stavig family until 1994 when the last heir, Andrew's daughter Matilda, passed away. It is thus a well preserved example of a late Queen Anne house with an Arts and Crafts interior of high-quality Scandinavian craftsmanship. Matilda bequeathed the house to the Heritage Museums of the Coteau des Prairies to be used as a museum. For information on visiting the Stavig House, check their website: [http://www.sissetonmuseums.org/stavig\\_house\\_hours.asp](http://www.sissetonmuseums.org/stavig_house_hours.asp).